

Message Text

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62

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 SAJ-01 SAM-01 EUR-12 /071 W

----- 009292

R 020900Z MAY 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3681

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PING PFOR CH

SUBJECT: MAYDAY 75

SUMMARY: THIS YEAR'S MAYDAY CELEBRATIONS HELD IN SAME STYLE AND AT SAME LEVELS AS LAST YEAR'S. WANG HUNG-WEN APPEARED, AS DID CHANG CH'UN-CHI'IAO, BUT CHIANG CH'ING ABSENT. ANTI-U.S. POSTERS OR ENTERTAINMENT NOT NOTICEABLY HEAVY IN WAKE OF INDOCHINA DEVELOPMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN WHAT HAS BECOME STANDARDIZED BI-ANNUAL RITUAL FOR CHINA'S MAY AND OCTOBER DAY FESTIVALS, PEKING'S FLAG-BEDECKED AND GARLANDED PARKS THIS MAY 1 OFFERED THE MASSES (BY INVITATION ONLY) AND THE FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY MUCH THE SAME OPIATES AT LAST YEAR--VARIETY SHOWS, MAGICIANS, CHORAL GROUPS, GAMES AND DISPLAYS FOR OLD AND YOUNG, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF SOME OF THE PRC LEADERSHIP, WHO TRADITIONALLY MINGLE WITH THE CELEBRANTS IN THIS PURITANICAL RITE OF SPRING.

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2. ALTHOUGH WANG HUNG-WEN, WHO SHOWED UP AT

CHUNGSHAN PARK, WAS HIGHEST RANKER TO PUT IN APPEARANCE, MOST NOTABLE FOR HIS PRESENCE WAS CHANG CH'UN-CH'IAO, ABSENT FROM VIEW FOR ALMOST A MONTH AND A TOTAL RECLUSE DURING KIM IL SUNG'S VISIT. MOST NOTEWORTHY ABSENTEE WAS CHIANG CH'ING, WHILE MOST ADMIRABLE FOR MANAGING TO SHOW UP AT ALL WERE TWO OR THREE GREY-MANED OCTOGENARIANS (INCLUDING CHU TE), WHOM USLO OFFICERS OBSERVED LITERALLY BEING PROPPED UP BY ATTENDANTS.

3. IN WAKE OF INDOCHINA DEVELOPMENTS, USLO OFFICERS DID NOT DETECT PARTICULARLY HEAVY ANTI-AMERICAN BENT TO POSTTER AND ENTERTAINMENT. ONE POSTER PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED IN COURTYARD OF WORKERS'S PALACE OF CULTURE (FROM WHICH PERFORMANCES WERE TELEVISED) URGED READERS TO CELEBRATE "GREAT VICTORY OF CAMBODIAN PEOPLES STRUGGLE TO RESIST AMERICA AND SAVE THEIR COUNTRY/, AS WELL AS TO SUPPORT THE "PEACEFUL"UNIFICATION OF KOREA. SONGS SONG BY PLA CHORAL GROUP INCLUDED "HAIL THE VICTORY OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE" AND "THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING WELL". ONE USLO OFFICER WAS ALSO PRESENT AT PERFORMANCE OF CONTROVERSIAL SONG "THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN, OUR BROTHERS". HE CONCLUDED THAT TO AMERICAN EARS ANY MESSAGE IN ITS LYRICS WOULD BE TOTALLY BURIED IN THE INANENESS OF ITS MELODY. IT DID, HOWEVER, CONCLUDE WITH A RINGING "WE WILL DEFINITELY LIBERATE TAIWAN." BUSH

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